



CITY OF PERRIS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MICHAEL M. VARGAS

SOUTH COAST AQMD
CLERK OF THE BOARDS
2025 MAY 27 PM 3:50

May 21, 2025

Hon. Vanessa Delgado, Chair
South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121

Dear Chair Delgado:

On behalf of the residents, business owners, schools, churches, and community organizations in the City of Perris, we write to express our strong opposition to the South Coast AQMD's Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121. We urge the AQMD Governing Board to engage meaningfully with the 17 million stakeholders who would be directly impacted by these proposed changes.

The City of Perris has serious concerns regarding the affordability and feasibility of transitioning from gas furnaces and water heaters to zero-emission alternatives. Access to reliable hot water and heating is a basic necessity. When an appliance fails, rapid replacement is essential. However, the proposed rules would force residents and businesses to undertake costly electrical and plumbing upgrades. In many cases, this could require physical renovations that cost tens of thousands of dollars, a financial burden that working families and small business owners in Perris simply cannot afford.

Additionally, we echo the concerns raised by our regional partners, including the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), about the potential impact on housing affordability. Increased compliance costs could result in the redevelopment or sale of older multifamily housing units, which would reduce the availability of affordable housing throughout the region. For Perris, a community that includes a significant portion of the Inland Empire's essential workforce, this could lead to longer commutes and greater dependence on personal vehicles. These outcomes would likely offset the emission reductions the proposed rules aim to achieve.

We are also deeply concerned about the ability of California's electrical grid to handle the added demand from millions of new electric water heaters and furnaces. Perris residents have already experienced the impacts of Public Safety Power Shutoffs and outages during emergencies. Increasing the load on an already strained grid without first addressing infrastructure limitations

101 North "D" Street
Perris, California 92570
(951) 943-6100

could lead to more frequent power interruptions and compromise community safety and resilience, especially during extreme weather events.

For these reasons, the City of Perris opposes Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121. We respectfully request that the AQMD Governing Board delay implementation of these rules and instead initiate a robust fact-finding and public engagement process that carefully examines costs, technology readiness, infrastructure capacity, and the availability of incentives.

Thank you for your attention to the voices of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Vargas", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Michael M. Vargas